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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00065 062309Z

64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

PA-01 PRS-01 HEW-02 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 DODE-00 L-03

SS-15 (ISO) W
---------- 128215
P 062220Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2157

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR MX
SUBJECT: REACTION TO HERBICIDE USE

1. FOLLOWING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT JAN. 5 BY SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE CUENCA DIAZ THAT MEXICAN ARMY WOULD EMPLOY HERBICIDES IN CURRENT ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, EXCELSIOR JAN. 6 RAN NEWS STORY AND EDITORIAL THIS SUBJECT. NEWS STORY IS THREE INTERVIEWS WITH SECRETARY OF HEALTH, SEC OF AGRICULTURE, AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL STUDIES. GIST OF THREE INTERVIEWS IS THAT STUDIES BEING CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE SAFETY OF HERBICIDE USE HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND PERMISSION FOR THEIR USE WILL BE GIVEN ONLY WHEN STUDIES SHOW THAT EFFECT IS TEMPORARY AND THAT OTHER VEGETATION AND CROPS WILL NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. SEC AGRICULTURE BRAUER RECALLED USE OF HERBICIDES IN VIETNAM.

2. EXECLSIOR EDITORIAL TAKES SLIGHTLY MORE CRITICAL VIEW, ASSERTING THAT NATIONAL DEFENSE IS ACTING OUTSIDE ITS COMPETENCE IN USING HERBICIDES AND ENDORSING VIEW THAT THEY SHOULD BE USED ONLY AFTER THE MOST METICULOUS INVESTIGATION. EXCELSIOR SAYS THAT USE OF HERBICIDES AT HIGH ELEVATIONS RUNS GREATER RISK OF DAMAGE SINCE HERBI-
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CIDES CAN BE WASHED DOWN TO LOWER ELEVATIONS.

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3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MEXICAN AG PLANS TO COUNTER THIS WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO PLACE THE USE OF HERBICIDES IN PERSPECTIVE. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE NO GOM PLANS TO CURTAIL OR DISCONTINUE USE OF HERBICIDES.
JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, CROP DESTRUCTION, POLLUTION, HERBICIDES, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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